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THREE LANE HIGHWAYS....

Natural Killers

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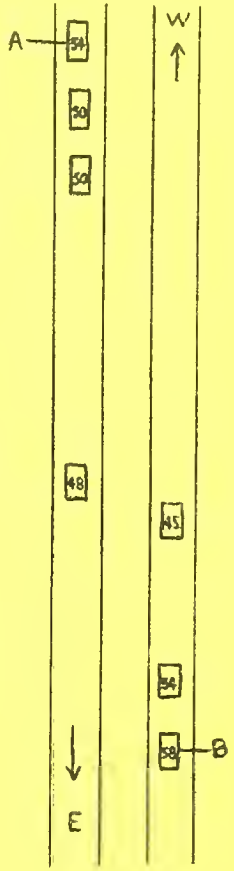
BY THE
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY COUNCIL
in cooperation with the
BUREAU OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DOCUMENTS SECTION

Three lane highways are natural killers....

W H Y ?

Let's look at the diagram below. Here is a perfectly normal flow of traffic--the center lane of this three lane highway is clear of traffic.



Yet two of these cars within two seconds will crash head on in the center lane--several people will be killed--others will be maimed for life.

How does this accident happen?

At exactly 7:45 a.m. the drivers of Car "A" and Car 'B" step on the accelerator and pull into the center lane in what would normally appear to be a routine pass.

NOTE: Position of both cars "A" and "B" was just a few feet behind the first car each was going to pass.

As both drivers accelerated and simultaneously pulled into the center lane, their combined speeds quickly grew to 120 mph--or 176 feet per second.

Since they were less than 200 feet apart at 7:45 a.m.--at approximately 7:45:015 a.m. they crashed head on without either car showing an application of brakes, which would have left skid marks on the highway.

THIS ACCIDENT RESULTED BECAUSE THE TIMING WAS "SPLIT SECOND" PERFECT.

Now, let's look at diagram No. 2.

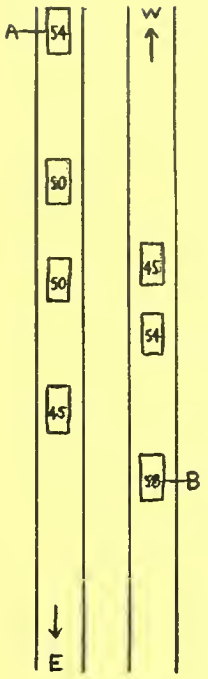
Same highway--same cars--same drivers--*Except....*

Cars "A" and "B"--either or both start their pass approximately 65 feet back of the car ahead.

NOW--supposing they both pull out to make a pass at the same instant....

Nine chances out of ten--there will be no collision!

WHY? Because if either driver sees the other fellow he will have *time*--and *space*--to swerve back into the lane he has just left.



THREE LANE HIGHWAYS ARE NATURAL KILLERS

Here are three basic rules that should be followed by all drivers on three lane highways:

1. Never attempt to pass any car that is traveling at the maximum legal speed.
2. Never attempt to pass when there is a solid line of cars coming from the opposite direction. (One of these drivers might try the same thing at exactly the same time).
3. If you must pass, get into the passing lane at least 75 or 100 feet back of the car directly ahead of you.

Many persons die on Pennsylvania's three lane highways each year--Close adherence to the above rules and otherwise sane, courteous driving might save--YOUR LIFE!

LET'S KEEP PENNSYLVANIA

"THE SAFE DRIVER STATE"

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Pennsylvania. Governor's
Traffic Safety Council.
Three lane highways

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